FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

WEST END NSL			
ROUND 10	Wollongong v Brisbane Lions	(A) Sun, 10th April	3.00p.m.
ROUND 11	Brisbane Lions v Preston Makedonia	(H) Sun, 17th April	3.00p.m.
SECOND DIVISION			
ROUND 4	Lions v Nerang	(H) Sat, 9th April	7.00p.m.
	Reserves	(H) Sat, 9th April	5.00p.m.
	3rd Grade	(H) Sat, 9th April	3.00p.m.
ROUND 5	Lions v Capalaba	(H) Sun, 17th April	1.00p.m.
	Reserves	(H) Sun, 17th April	10.45a.m.
	3rd Grade	(H) Sun, 17th April	10.45a.m.

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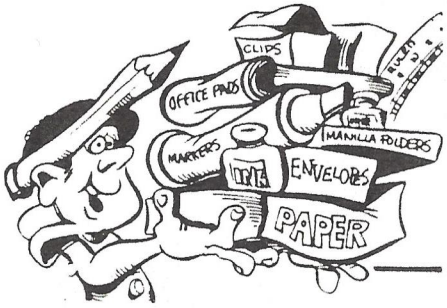

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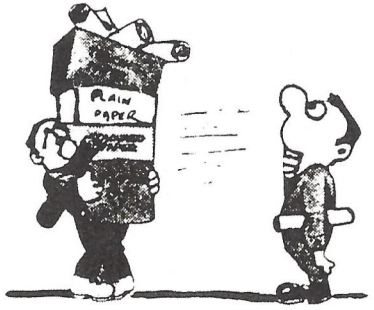

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WEST END

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

NSL

BRISBANE LIONS v ST. GEORGE

THE TEAMS

BRISBANE LIONS	ST. GEORGE
JASON KEARTON	MIKE GIBSON
ALAN NIVEN	MIKE O'SHEA
ALEX CUMMINGS	ANDREW KOCZKA
NICK MEREDITH	ALLAN POTTIER
RUSSELL STEWART	STEVE O'CONNOR
JOHN OGDEN	DAVID GREEN
DAVID WHEELER	CRAIG MOFFITT
GRANT LIGHTBOWN	SCOTT OLLERENSHAW
PETER DWYER	KEVIN HAGAN
FRANK MENGOTTI	MIKE GRBEVSKI
RICHARD BASSINGTHWAIGHTE	PEDRO RICOY
DAVID HUNTER	VLADE TORTEVSKI
PHILIP KERR	GRAEME FLETCHER
BRETT DRUERY	
ROB FARROW	
COACH: JUAN [illegible]ILLAS	COACH: FRANK [illegible]ROK

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Official Programme/Newsletter of the Brisbane Lions Soccer Club Vol. 1 No. 5
Saturday, 2nd April, 1988

TODAY'S GAME

This evening, we will be confronting one of the most competitive and experienced teams in the history of the NSL, St. George. The Saints finished third last year in the West End NSL, and from there, they were further to win the Grand Final in great style against the champions, Apia Leichhardt by 4-0.

The team is practically the same as last year, although their actual performance does not reflect at all the quality of the coaching staff and players of St. George. Saint's sluggish start to the season can certainly be attributed to the commitments of it's coach, Frank Arok with the Australian National team. With Arok back, as a head coach, St. George will be a hard nut to crack.

On the other hand, our team has been very competitive in the last two games. A win against Brunswick Juventus and a loss away to South Melbourne Hellas, 2-1, in a game that Lions never should have lost. In soccer, more so than in most other sports, officiating plays a very important role, and the referee's decision in crucial stages of the game can make the difference between losing and winning. It is symptomatic that in our only two trips to Melbourne against Croatia and then Hellas, we received the same referee, Dennis Voutsinas, and in both we lost points through penalties that only seemed to exist in the imagination of the Melbourne-based official.

This brings me to remember the head coach of the Philippine Basketball Team, which I was involved with as a physical director. In 1974 we went to the World Championship in Puerto Rico as the only Asian representative. Often receiving the worst officialling, we kept on losing in the qualifying round - perhaps because we were not a big name in Basketball. The coach, a real gentleman, always said after the game, "charge it to experience". We really profited from it, and in the consolation round, one of our sweetest wins was against the big Australian boys. With three seconds to go and Australia ahead by one point, the Philippines scored the winning basket. I would like to say the same to our team "charge it to experience" and keep up the good work, because I am sure no matter what, the results will come our way.

The highlight of the game was the brilliant goal by Mengotti in an individual effort that saw him running the length of the field evading opponents and beating the goalkeeper, and the total domination of the second half by Lions unlucky not to score on several opportunities.

The bad news is the send-off of our captain, Frank Liddell in the dying stages of the game after a solid performance. Liddell will miss this game, but whoever takes his position, I am sure will do the job for us. As I said before, St. George will be a very difficult opponent, but I believe with your support, we will have a good chance to get the points.

JUAN CUTILLAS, *COACH*

LOOKING BACK....

with TREVOR MOORE

Tonight at Richlands, Lions entertain the glamour Sydney club St. George B.S.C. and we wish a warm welcome to their players and officials, especially national boss, Frank Arok who is making one of his rare visits to Brisbane. Arok's responsibilities with the Socceroos for the Olympic Games qualifiers has been at the expense of his club side who are languishing near the bottom of the table. Being without 'keeper Mike Gibson, captian Andrew Koczka and striker Scott Ollerenshaw, all on national team duties has also not helped their cause. Tonight, Saints will be looking to start a revival similar to that of last season. After ten rounds in 1987, they had slumped to third from the bottom before nine wins from the next 15 games saw them climb to third position. St George carried their good form through the finals culminating with a 4-0 thrashing of Champions, Apia in the Grand Final.

St George B.S.C. can trace their roots back to the late 1940's when large numbers of Hungarian migrants began arriving from war-torn Europe. Originally the club played friendly matches under the name of Ferencvaros and in 1952 adopted the name Europa FC. The Budapest Soccer Club was formed in 1957 when a group of rebel clubs left the NSW Association to form the NSW Soccer Federation. From the 1965 season they have operated as St George Budapest Soccer club and from then until joining the Philips League in 1977, they were only once outside of the top three clubs in the NSW Federation. Their successess were numerous - State League Premiers on three occasions (Runners-up seven times) and Grand Final winners five times. In the early 1970's, they had arguably the strongest club side this country has seen. Socceroo regulars such as Johnny Warren, Atti Abonyi, Manfred Schaefer, Adrian Alston, Harry Williams, Doug Utjesenovic, Jack Reilly and Bobby Hogg wore Saints colours with distinction during this period.

St George had been State League Champions in 1976, and when the Philips League started one year later, they were expected to continue their success. However by this time the team was in the process of rebuilding - Johnny Warren had retired and was now coach of Canberra City, while Manfred Schaefer had also finished playing to take up the role of coach of St George. At no stage of that initial PSL season did they appear capable of challenging the leaders and halfway through, Schaefer was replaced by Ilja Takac. In 1978, they again finished mid table and in 1979, under coach Raul Blanco, possible relegation was only avoided in the last game when a goal from a young Peter Katholos meant that Sydney Olympic had to apply for re-election. Saints did reach the final of the Philips Cup in that year but went down to Adelaide City by 3-2.

The 1980 season proved a disaster for St George, winning only five games and being relegated. Halfway through that season, the club turned to Frank Arok, the man who had guided Saints in 1969-70 and who had taken them to the 1972 State League title. His return from Yugoslavia came too late to avoid relegation but under Arok's control in 1981, they lost only one fixture and defeated arch rivals Croatia to win the Grand Final. Their return to the PSL in 1982 saw them finish second to Sydney City and in 1983, they turned the tables, heading the League in one of the tightest finishes in National League history. Saints, Preston, South Melbourne and Sydney City each won 15 games that year but St George held on to win by one point from City. In 1984 they slumped to tenth in the Northern Division but steady progress in 1985 and

WEST END NSL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wollongong City	8	5	2	1	12	8	12
Marconi	8	5	1	2	19	9	11
Sydney Olympic	8	4	2	2	10	3	10
South Melbourne	8	3	4	1	13	11	10
Sunshine G.C.	8	4	1	3	15	15	9
Apia Leichhardt	8	4	0	4	13	13	8
Sydney Croatia	6	4	0	2	8	9	8
Melbourne Croatia	7	3	2	2	8	9	8
Brisbane Lions	**8**	**3**	**1**	**4**	**13**	**12**	**7**
Footscray	8	1	4	3	8	10	6
Adelaide City	8	1	4	3	7	13	6
Brunswick Juventus	7	1	3	3	6	9	5
St. George	8	2	0	6	12	15	4
Preston Makedonia	8	0	4	4	1	9	4

1986 saw them finish fifth and third respectively. Last year they again finished third and twice defeated champions, Apia in the play-offs, winning the Grand Final convincingly by 4-0.

Brisbane Lions and St. George have met 13 times in NSL fixtures with Saints having the edge with three victories to two by Lions. Their last meeting was at Richlands in July 1984, when Lions ran out 3-2 winners. At the time, Saints coach, Frank Arok was in Europe and they suffered further disruption when Socceroo 'keeper, Terry Greedy left the field through injury. By that time, Lions were two up through goals by Calvin Daunt and Rod Vasquez, but a 65th minute goal by Jim McDonagh was needed to cancel out two second half strikes by St George's Robbie Slater. The line-ups on that day were:-

Lions: Farrow, Jackson, Hunter, Vasquez, Niven, R. Stewart, J. Stewart, Junna, McDonagh, Daunt and Cairney.

St. George: Greedy, Skeen, Ratcliffe, M. O'Shea, Koczka, Barton, Ricoy, Stone, J. O'Shea, Slater, Batten.

The two clubs are yet to meet in NSL Cup competitions.

Should St. George win today, it will be their 100th victory in NSL fixtures. Their complete record is:- Played 268; Won 99; Drawn 72; Lost 97; Goals for 378; Goals against 385; Points 270.

* * * *

ST. GEORGE B.S.C. - Where the National League began

I wonder how many supporters are aware of the major part played by St. George in the formation of a National League in Australia. After years of specualtion that the A.S.F. or State Federations would take action in that direction, it became obvious that only a group of ambitious clubs would have the determination to overcome the numerous obstacles in establishing a nation-wide competition. It will be exactly 13 years ago on Tuesday that representatives of nine far-sighted clubs met at the St. George club in Sydney on April 5, 1975. The meeting was chaired by St. George President, Alex Pongrass and Frank Lowy of Hakoah. Saints and Hakoah had dominated the NSW State League since 1970 and it would only be guess work as to when a National League would have started had these two clubs not shown such determination. The other clubs to attend that meeting in 1975 were:- Marconi, Apia and Western Suburbs (all Sydney), Adelaide clubs Hellas and Juventus, Adamstown from Newcastle and Brisbane Lions who were represented by President, John Morcus.

Of the clubs which met on that day, only Marconi and Adelaide City (Juventus) have remained ever-present in the National League. St. George and Lions have each missed one season through relegation while Adelaide Hellas have been absent since the end of 1986. Apia, so strongly supportive of the National League concept in 1975, were not to join until 1979 when founder member, Western Suburbs dropped out of the League. Adamstown eventually received their opportunity when Newcastle KB United folded in 1984. Their decision to retain their club identity rather than assume the role of a Newcastle representative side created jealousy and resentment and they were another club axed in 1986.

Looking back at the clubs represented at that 1975 meeting, surely the saddest aspect is the demise of Hakoah, one of the chief instigators in the formation of a National League. As Hakoah, Eastern Suburbs then Sydney City then Sydney Slickers, they dominated the early years of the NSL, winning four of the first six championships. Sadly the power of the soccer fraternity within the powerful Hakoah club was gradually eroded culminating with their disgraceful withdrawal after only one game of the 1987 season. From that 1975 meeting, it should also be noted the lack of representation of Victorian clubs which were prevented from attending by their State Executive. It was not until tiny Mooroolbark United applied to join the League did other Melbourne clubs follow and without them, it is likely that the National League would have commenced without any Victorian representation.

Brisbane Lions would like to thank the following sponsors

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DIVISION TWO round-up

DIVISION TWO
by PAUL BURNS

v THE GAP

A game we were expected to win and realistically should have. We out-played them in the middle of the park and they never troubled us at the back. But we lacked the imagination in attack thus creating very little scoring opportunities. What chances we had, we either finished poorly or the 'keeper scrambled them away. The game was heading for a scoreless first half until The Gap played a long ball forward to a lone striker who took on a hesitant defence and scored to give The Gap a suprising 1-0 lead.

In the second half, we knew we had to score early to make up the defecit, but we just didn't look the goods going forward. We lacked variety and The Gap had their defence well organised and were doing their best to close up the game.

Although we had no direction going forward, we still kept working away at them through the middle of the park and eventually it payed off with Brendon Eastwell scoring fairly late in the second half. We still kept going forward but just couldn't get the winner. The game ending with a 1-1 draw.

v NEWMARKET

Very disappointing game. We lacked the commitment which is required to win games in this division. We can't win games on football skills and reputation alone. We also have to compete and give everything for 90 minutes. A lot of the players tend to wait for someone else to do something when we all should take responsibility and make things happen for ourselves.

Newmarket was a very determined side and won all the knockdowns in midfield which meant we didn't have a lot of posession. We played the game way to fast and didn't use any width at all. Newmarket opened the scoring mid-way through the first half. Again it highlighted our lack of commitment in the middle of the park when twice we should have won posession and didn't. The ball eventually made its way out to the right flank to the winger who slotted it past the oncoming Rob Farrow inside the near post. Newmarket lead 1-0.

Both teams created several scoring opportunities that weren't converted. We weren't positive in the penalty area and that's where you must be desperate.

We came out after half time looking for an equaliser. We went forward creating several scoring chances. The Newmarket goalkeeper was superb. He really had a great game, for without him, Lions could have scored five.

With time ticking away, we were committed in going forward which meant at times we were man-on-man at the back. A break from a Newmarket forward after one of our many raids on their goal, found the referee overuling an offside flag from the linesman, and he went on to put Newmarket 2-0 ahead with just 10 minutes to go.

We did score to be down 1-2 and still could have stolen a draw with two or three chances in as many minutes but time beat us. It's just not on trying to play catch up soccer all the time. We must improve our overall attitude towards the game.

RESERVES
by PAUL BURNS

v THE GAP

A game of nothings. The boys produced very little against pretty poor oposition. We do try to do the hard things when most of the time the simple ball is the best ball. At least we were more committed in defence which was pleasing.

We have to improve all aspects of our game which means working harder at training and improving our attitude towards the game. Score: 0-0.

v NEWMARKET

One of the most unusual games I've seen. The boys went out determined to take three points and their first win of the season. It didn't take long before Lions opened the scoring. A good build-up on the right involving Aaron Brown and Baden Sparrow resulting in a 20m drive from Alan Bunce hitting the back of the net. 1-0.

We then continued to dominate the game with everybody getting involved and

playing good football. It was like watching a different team that played the previous two weeks. Another two goals followed quickly and we led 3-0 in the first 20 minutes. Goals by Steve Pope and Alan Simseker.

We still kept going forward and it looked like we might make double figures, then Newmarket scored a scrappy goal against the run of play. We tended to lose concentration and discipline from then on.

Half time score, 3-1. Lions needed a goal early in the second half and the game was ours. We went forward unlucky not to score with a couple of good opportunities. But, we paid the price for being to adventurous and left openings in the middle of the defence and conceded another goal against the run of play. From then on it was all Newmarket. They came forward and made us look fairly ordinary. Again they scored to make it 3-3 and in the end we were thankful we got the draw. We've got to play for 90 minutes.

BRISBANE LIONS CHEER SQUAD RECRUITS

We are on the lookout for any lively, active girls over the age of 15 years, and would love to support their favourite team in big way. If you fit the bill, then phone the club on 271 3609 during working hours or

Nigel Jackson 288 2668 A/H
Robert Mollee 288 4389 A/H

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SUPPORTERS TRIP

Brisbane Lions are playing Sydney Croatia, away, on Saturday, 11th June. WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE THERE? If so, then please notify the club or any director as soon as possible. The sooner we know numbers, the earlier we can arrange travel and accommodation bookings and prices. We envisage leaving Brisbane on Friday evening in time for the Saturday afternoon kickoff. An overnight stay in Sydney, then return home on Sunday in time for Monday's QLD v NSW clash at Perry Park.

3rd GRADE
by ROBERT MOLLEE

v THE GAP

On a fairly humid afternoon, we started our second round fixture against The Gap who defeated Capalaba 4-0 the week before. They were an unknown quantity, so we prepared for a difficult challenge.

We started off terribly, passes were going astray, and their players were given far too much room in the midfield. In fact, that was where their goal came from early in the half. It was a goal from nothing as their player took a pot-shot from 30 yards out which the wind took and floated over our 'keeper who was stranded on the six yard line.

It was a goal against, but it must have been what we needed to get ourselves in motion. From then on, we mounted several attacking moves that almost paid off. It wasn't until late in the half that we scored when Andrew Stowell received a pass behind the defence and blasted his shot in the roof of the net.

The second half was a better performance as The Gap began to tire. We were using the wings a lot more and this completely broke their defences. Our second goal came from good build-up work with the final pass from Steve Fulton finding Robert Thompson with room to turn and place his shot under a diving 'keeper. This seemed to break The Gap and we mounted more attacks only to be rewarded with one more goal through Paul Trembath after one of his long searching runs to receive the ball inside the box and place his shot between two defenders and to the left of the 'keeper. Final score: 3-1.

A well-deserved win on the second half performance, but still there is a lot of room for improvement as there will be much tougher opposition yet to come.

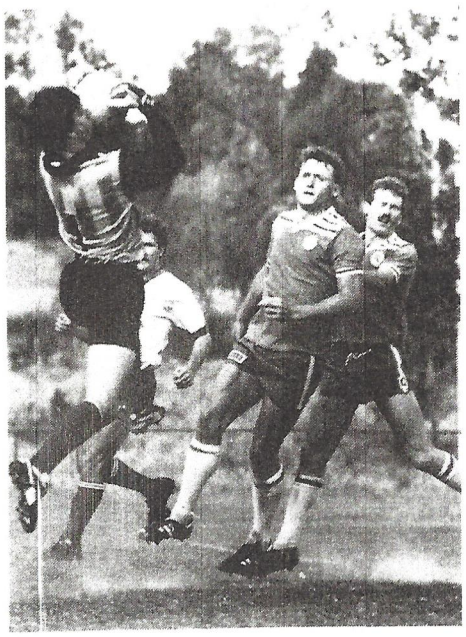
v NEWMARKET

A convincing 4-1 win over an indifferent Newmarket squad. Once again we allowed the opposition to dictate play in the opening 10-15 minutes, and they used this opportunity to open the scoring in fine style. It's a bad habit we've gotten into as we have now had to come back from being 1-0 down in our last three matches - always in the first 15 minutes.

Anyway, it was the remedy needed to wake us up, and from then on, we started working the ball to feet and created some good scoring opportunities. Ironically, it was our 'keeper, Michael Mollee who opened our account with a long clearance with the wind on the small Newmarket field. The ball bounced once before a retreating defender headed over his advancing 'keeper into the open goal - nice shot Michael.

Shortly after, we were down to ten men as Tony Brown was sent off for bad language. It was a spur-of-the-moment thing over a ball that was flagged out by their linesman, and understandable in some ways as patience on both teams had worn thin from some of the worst refereeing ever encountered. But, language is language and a red card is the final order. So we battled on for the next 15 minutes 'til half-time and still held on to the 1-1 scoreline.

The second half was all ours as we seemed to find the extra room with one man missing. Overlapping runs down both wings from midfield caught their defence constantly off guard and we hounded their goal time after time. Our second goal came after Steve Fulton layed back the ball from the by-line to Andrew Stowell who slotted it home wide of the 'keeper.



The third came from a free kick just outside the box near the by-line. Steve Fulton intended the kick to go to me as I raced to the near post, but the keeper reached it first and kindly fumbled it into the net. Their players were appealing for off side and the referee was unsure of what to give until we explained to him that I couldn't be off side from a pass angled back from the by-line (this would give you an indication of the referee's capabilities). Our fourth and final goal came from nothing as a Michael Mollee clearance found Steve Fulton up front. He brought the ball under control at the halfway line, rounded the defence, raced away and blasted his shot into the roof of the net over a very tentative 'keeper. We could have had more as both Robert Thompson and myself missed sitters, so we had to be content with the 4-1 scoreline.

Current Goalscorers: A. Stowell 4; S. Fulton 2; R. Thompson, P. Trembath, M. Mollee 1.

Satdee Avo

The **Brisbane Lions Soccer Club** wishes to extend and invitation to all members and supporters to attend a **1pm-5pm session** at the **Den** on **Saturday, 16th April.** For the price of a small **$2 cover charge** which will inlcude a **free drink** and a chance at the **lucky door prize** as well as raffles.

So come on down with a few friends and enjoy a relaxing afternoon at **YOUR** club.

For further information, contact JOHN LORBERG via the club office.